

# Pastor Views on Pastor Misconduct

---

Survey of Protestant Pastors

# Methodology

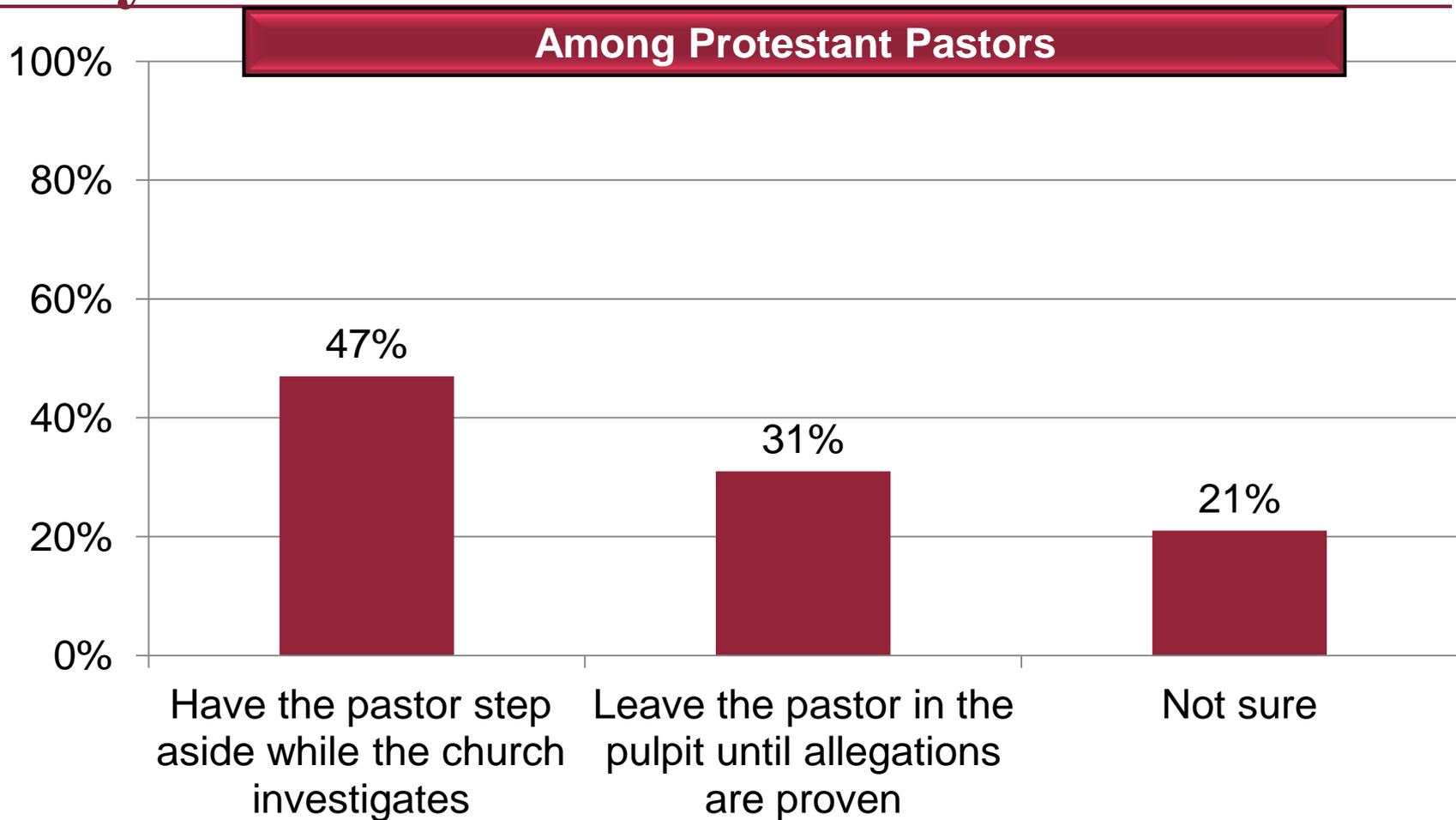
---

- ❑ The phone survey of Protestant pastors was conducted March 9 - 24, 2016
- ❑ The calling list was a stratified random sample, drawn from a list of all Protestant churches. Quotas were used for church size and Black Protestant denominations.
- ❑ Each interview was conducted with the senior pastor, minister or priest of the church called
- ❑ Responses were weighted by region to more accurately reflect the population
- ❑ The completed sample is 1,000 surveys
- ❑ The sample provides 95% confidence that the sampling error does not exceed  $\pm 3.2\%$
- ❑ Margins of error are higher in sub-groups

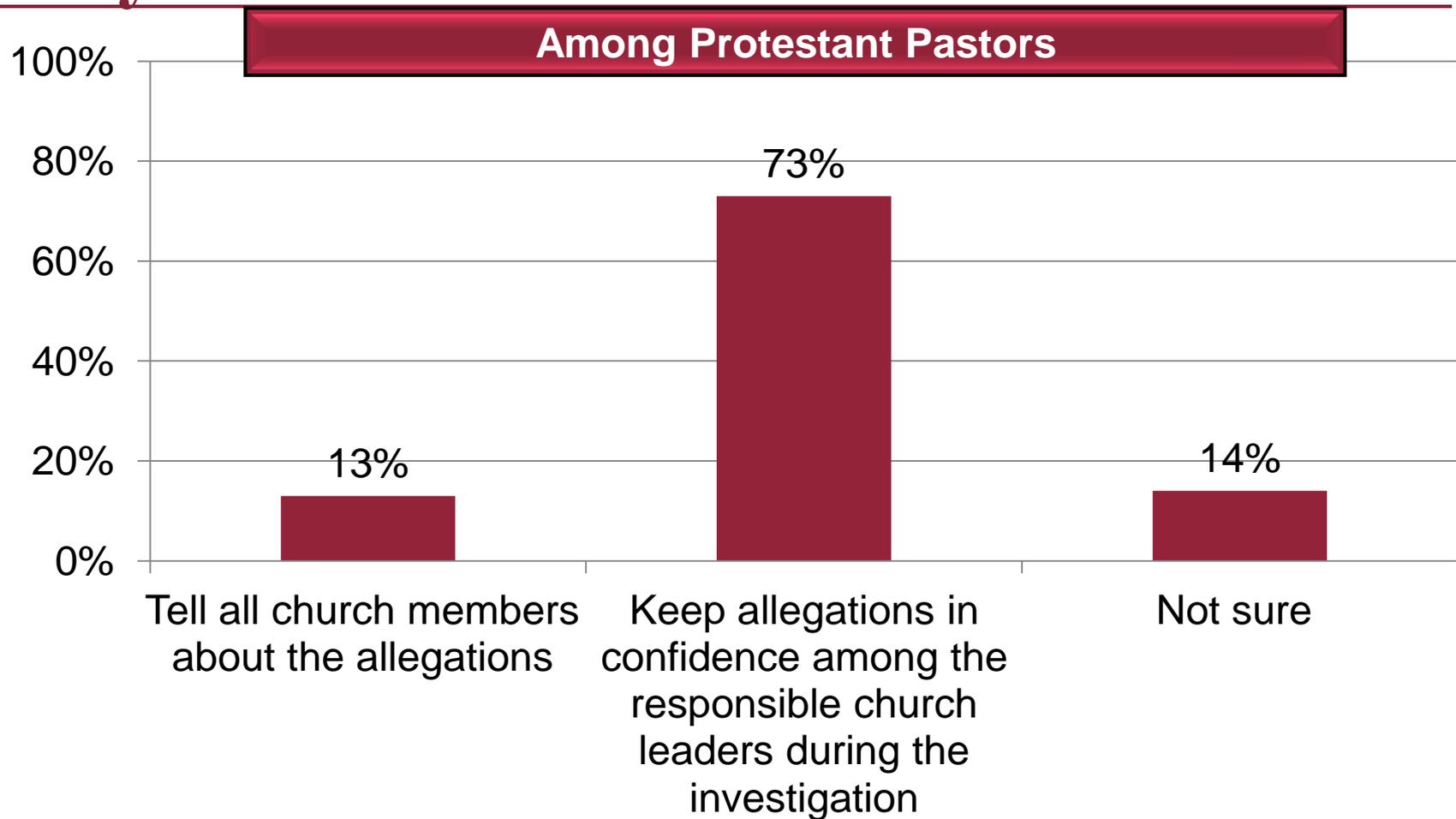
# Survey Responses

---

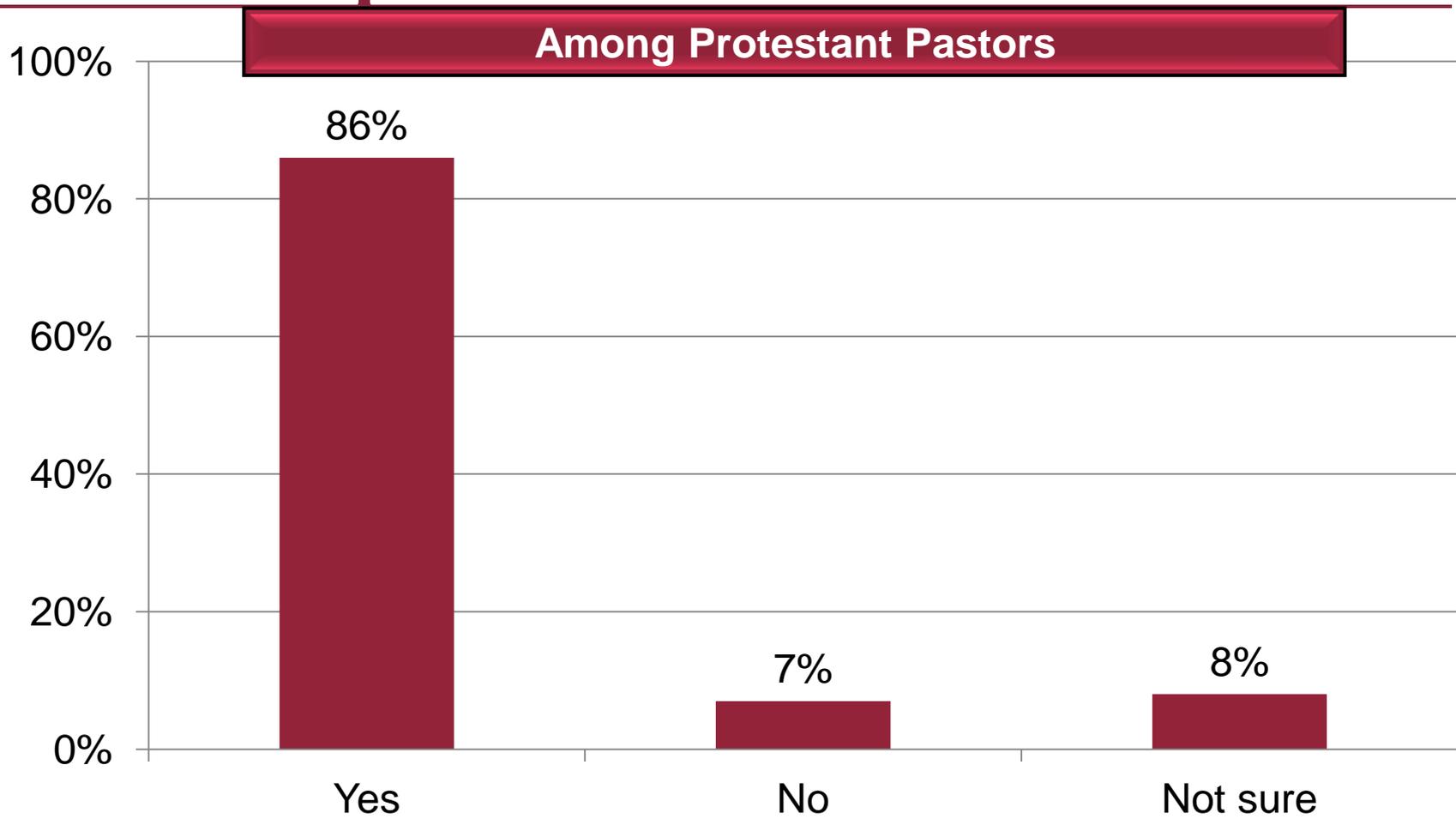
# “If allegations of pastoral misconduct are brought to church leaders, should they...”



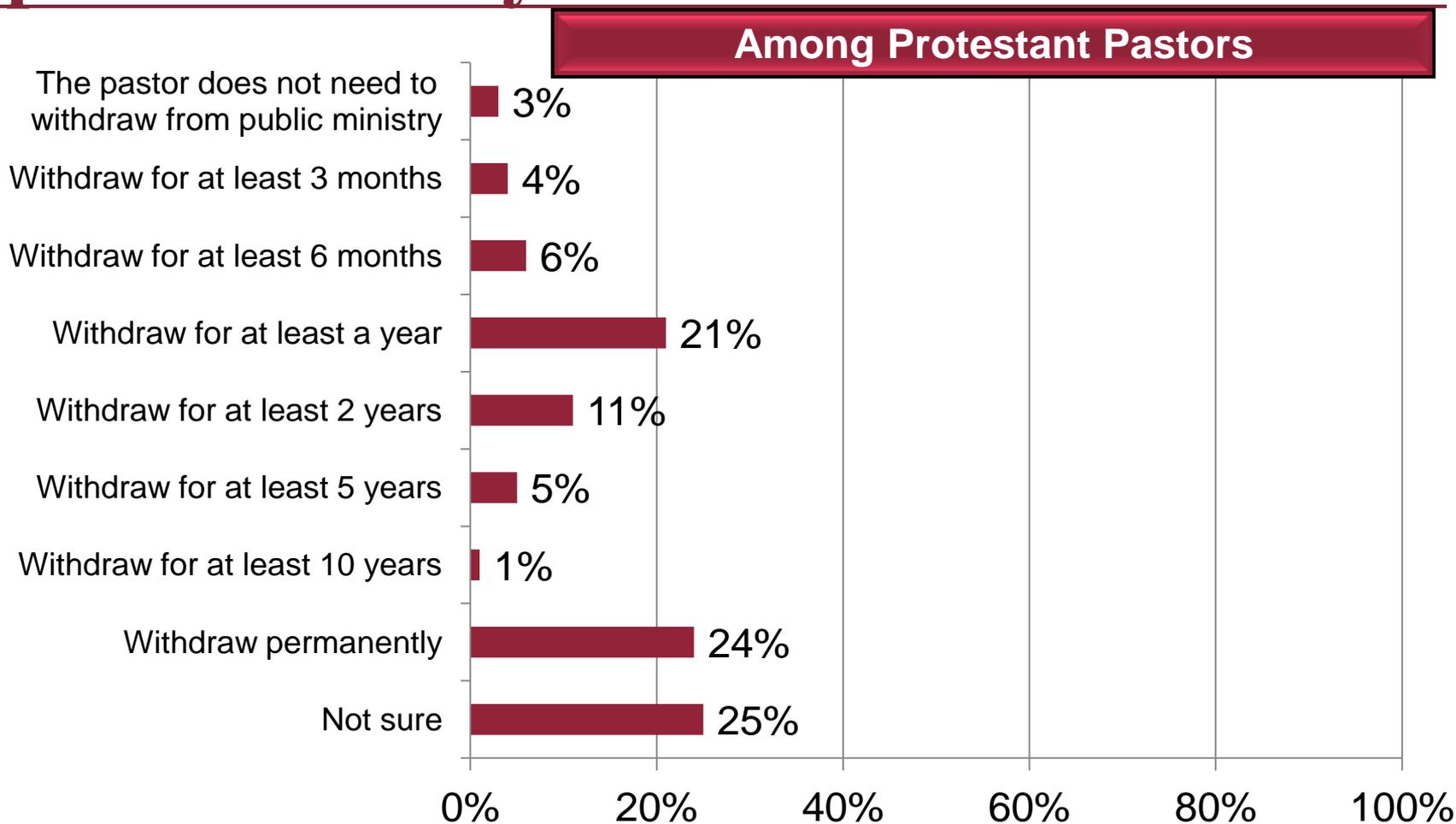
# “If allegations of pastoral misconduct are brought to church leaders, should they...”



# 86% say church leaders must inform the congregation when a pastor has been disciplined for misconduct



# 24% say a pastor committing adultery must permanently withdraw from public ministry



Q21: "If a pastor commits adultery, how long, if at all, should the pastor withdraw from public ministry?"

# Significant Differences

---

Pastor

Ethnicity

Age

Education Level

Self-identified Evangelical/Mainline

Church

Region

Denomination

Average Attendance

Largest Ethnic Group

# Significant Statistical Differences

- Comparisons were made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among the church's attendance and region, the pastor's age and ethnicity, and the church's largest ethnic group.

Attendance	Region	Age	Pastor's Ethnicity	Church's Largest Ethnic Group
0-49	Northeast	18-44	White	White
50-99	Midwest	45-54	African American	African American
100-249	South	55-64	Other Ethnicities	Other Ethnicities
250+	West	65+		

Note: Region is defined by US Census regions

# Significant Statistical Differences

- Comparisons were also made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among the self-identified Evangelical or Mainline, denomination, and education level.

Self-Identify	Denomination	Education Level
Evangelical	Baptist	No College Degree
Mainline	Christian/Church of Christ	Bachelor's Degree
	Lutheran	Master's Degree
	Methodist	Doctoral Degree
	Pentecostal	
	Presbyterian/ Reformed	

# **If allegations of pastoral misconduct are brought to church leaders, should they...**

- Pastors age 65+ (36%) are more likely to answer “Leave the pastor in the pulpit until allegations are proven” than those 18-44 (27%)
- African American pastors are more likely to select “Leave the pastor in the pulpit until allegations are proven” (50%) than White pastors (30%) or Other Ethnicities (34%)
- Pastors of churches whose largest ethnicity is African American (49%) are more likely to select “Leave the pastor in the pulpit until allegations are proven” than those whose largest ethnicity is White (29%)
- Baptists (35%) and Pentecostals (43%) are more likely to select “Leave the pastor in the pulpit until allegations are proven” than Methodists (24%) and Presbyterian/Reformed (24%)
- Pastors with no college degree (38%) or a Bachelor’s (36%) are more likely to select “Leave the pastor in the pulpit until allegations are proven” than those with a Master’s (28%)

# If allegations of pastoral misconduct are brought to church leaders, should they...

---

- Pastors age 55-64 (77%) and 65+ (78%) are more likely to answer “Keep allegations in confidence...” than those 18-44 (69%)
- Pentecostals (85%) are more likely to select “Keep allegations in confidence...” than Christian/Church of Christ (69%), Lutherans (70%), Methodists (63%) and Presbyterian/Reformed (71%)
- Those with a Doctoral degree (80%) are more likely to “Keep allegations in confidence...” than those with a Master’s (71%)

# Is it essential for church leaders to inform the congregation when a pastor has been disciplined for misconduct?

---

- African American pastors are most likely to select “No” (16%)
- Pastors of churches whose largest ethnicity is African American are most likely to select “No” (13%)
- Baptists (9%), Methodists (11%), and Pentecostals (9%) are more likely to select “No” than Lutherans (2%)

# If a pastor commits adultery, how long, if at all, should the pastor withdraw from public ministry

---

- Pastors in the South are most likely to select “At least 3 months to a year” (37%)
- Pastors age 45-54 (38%) and 55-64 (35%) are more likely to select “At least 3 months to a year” than those age 65+ (22%)
- Pastors age 65+ (28%) are more likely to select “Withdraw permanently” than pastors age 55-64 (19%)
- Compared to White pastors, African American pastors are more likely to select “The pastor does not need to withdraw...” (7% v 3%) and “At least 3 months – a year” (45% v 30%)
- African American pastors are least likely to select “2 years or more” (2%) and “Withdraw permanently” (5%)
- Compared to pastors whose largest ethnicity is White, pastors whose largest ethnicity is African American are more likely to select “The pastor does not need to withdraw...” (8% v 3%) and “At least 3 months – a year” (43% v 30%), and less likely to select “2 years or more” (4% v 18%) and “Withdraw permanently” (8% v 25%)

# If a pastor commits adultery, how long, if at all, should the pastor withdraw from public ministry (continued)

---

- Lutherans are least likely to select “At least 3 months – a year” (15%) and most likely to select “Withdraw permanently” (47%)
- Methodists (48%) are more likely to select “At least 3 months – a year” than Baptists (27%), Pentecostals (31%) and Presbyterian/Reformed (32%)
- Methodists are least likely to select “2 years or more” (5%)
- Baptists (30%) are more likely to select “Withdraw permanently” than Methodists (13%), Pentecostals (13%), and Presbyterian/Reformed (11%)

# Pastor Views on Pastor Misconduct

---

Survey of Protestant Pastors